

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A constant velocity joint in the form of counter-track joint comprising:

an outer joint part comprising a first longitudinal axis (L_A) as well as an attaching end and an aperture end which are positioned axially opposite one another, and first outer ball tracks and second outer ball tracks;

an inner joint part comprising a second longitudinal axis (L_I) and an attaching mechanism for a shaft pointing towards the aperture end of the outer joint part, and first inner ball tracks and second inner ball tracks (25), wherein the first outer ball tracks and the first inner ball tracks form first pairs of tracks which receive first balls, and the second outer ball tracks and the second inner ball tracks form second pairs of tracks which receive second balls; and

a ball cage positioned between the outer joint part and the inner joint part and comprising circumferentially distributed first cage windows each accommodating one of the first balls and second circumferentially distributed cage windows each accommodating one of the second balls,

wherein, when the joint is in the aligned condition, the first pairs of tracks widen from the aperture end to the attaching end and, when the joint is in the aligned condition, the second pairs of tracks widen from the attaching end to the aperture end, and

wherein the circumferential length (L_1) of the first cage windows for the first balls in the first pairs of tracks is greater than the circumferential length (L_2) of the second cage windows for the second balls in the second pairs of tracks.

2.-7. (cancelled)

8. (new) A joint according to claim 1, wherein the first pairs of tracks and the second pairs of tracks are arranged so as to alternate across the circumference.

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9. (new) A joint according to claim 1, wherein pairs of first pairs of tracks and pairs of second pairs of tracks are arranged so as to alternate across the circumference.

10. (new) A joint according to claim 1 comprising a joint base with an attaching journal at the attaching end of the outer joint part.

11. (new) A joint according to claim 8 comprising a joint base with an attaching journal at the attaching end of the outer joint part.

12. (new) A joint according to claim 9 comprising a joint base with an attaching journal at the attaching end of the outer joint part.

13. (new) A joint according to claim 1 comprising a flange face and a second aperture at the attaching end of the outer joint part.

14. (new) A joint according to claim 8 comprising a flange face and a second aperture at the attaching end of the outer joint part.

15. (new) A joint according to claim 9 comprising a flange face and a second aperture at the attaching end of the outer joint part.

16. (new) A joint according to claim 1, wherein the joint comprises an even number of at least four balls.

17. (new) A joint according to claim 8, wherein the joint comprises an even number of at least four balls.

18. (new) A joint according to claim 9, wherein the joint comprises an even number of at least four balls.

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19. (new) A joint according to claim 10, wherein the joint comprises an even number of at least four balls.

20. (new) A joint according to claim 13, wherein the joint comprises an even number of at least four balls.

21. (new) A method of assembling a joint according to claim 1 comprising first, inserting the first balls one after the other through the first cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a first angle (α_1), and thereafter inserting the second balls one after the other through the second cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a second, smaller angle (α_2).

22. (new) A method of assembling a joint according to claim 8 comprising first, inserting the first balls one after the other through the first cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a first angle (α_1), and thereafter inserting the second balls one after the other through the second cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a second, smaller angle (α_2).

23. (new) A method of assembling a joint according to claim 9 comprising first, inserting the first balls one after the other through the first cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a first angle (α_1), and thereafter inserting the second balls one after the other through the second cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a second, smaller angle (α_2).

24. (new) A method of assembling a joint according to claim 10 comprising first, inserting the first balls one after the other through the first cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a first angle (α_1), and thereafter inserting the second balls one after the other through the second cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a second, smaller angle (α_2).

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25. (new) A method of assembling a joint according to claim 13 comprising first, inserting the first balls one after the other through the first cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a first angle (α_1), and thereafter inserting the second balls one after the other through the second cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a second, smaller angle (α_2).

26. (new) A method of assembling a joint according to claim 16 comprising first, inserting the first balls one after the other through the first cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a first angle (α_1), and thereafter inserting the second balls one after the other through the second cage windows in the joint over-articulated by a second, smaller angle (α_2).